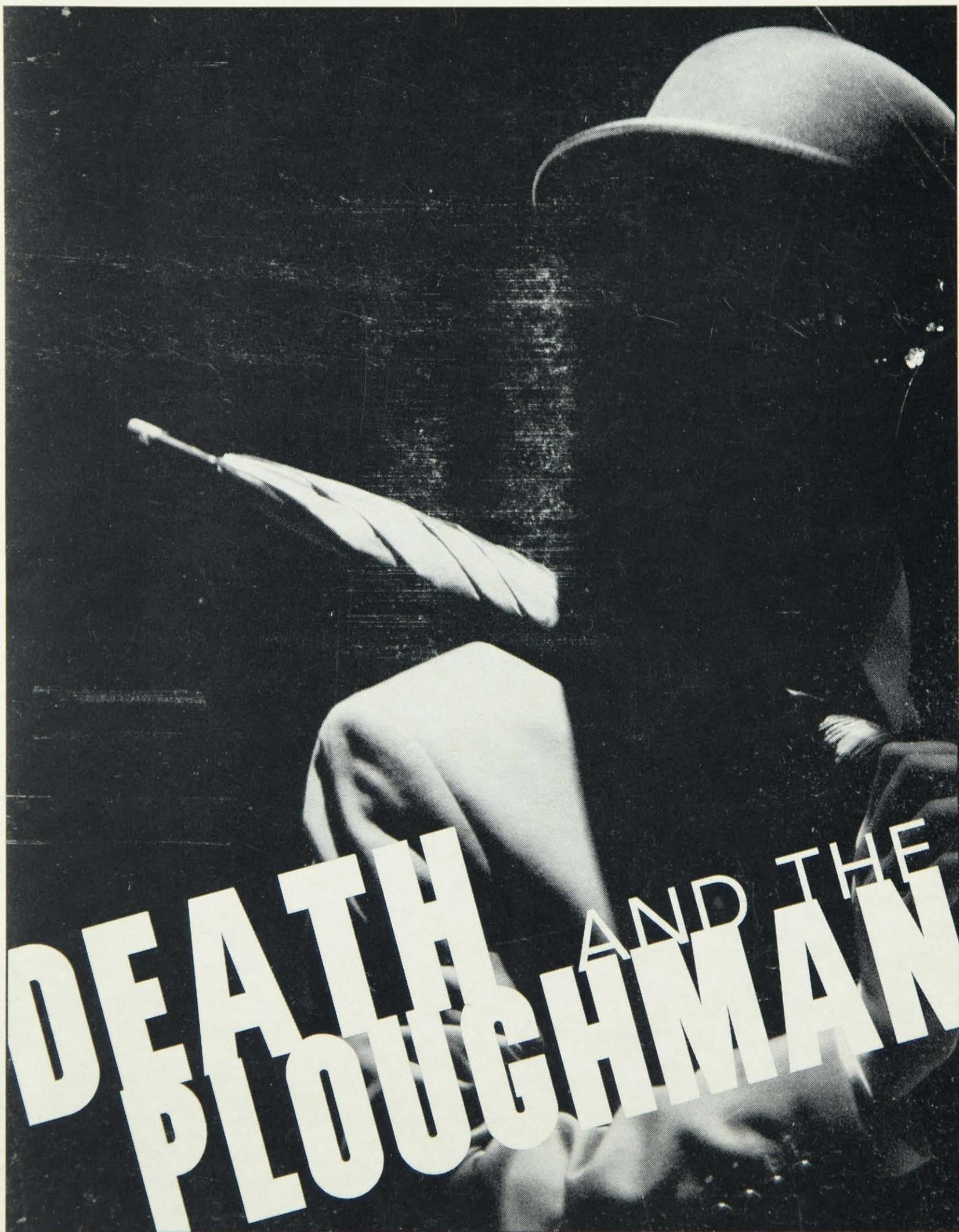


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THE 2004-2005 SEASON



BRIAN KULICK Artistic Director

JESSICA R. JENEN Executive Director

presents

the New York Premiere of

DEATH AND THE PLOUGHMAN

Translated by **Michael West**

From an Original Work by **Johannes von Saaz**

Created and Performed by **SITI Company**

with

Will Bond, Ellen Lauren, Stephen Webber

Set and Costume Design
James Schuette

Lighting Design
Brian H. Scott

Soundscape
Darron L West

Production Stage Manager
Elizabeth Moreau

SITI Managing Director
Megan Wanlass Szalla

Production Manager
B.D. White

General Manager
Lisa Barnes

Casting
James Calleri, CSA
Alaine Alldaffer

Press Representative
The Publicity Office

Directed by **Anne Bogart**

SITI Company's production of *Death and the Ploughman* was commissioned by the Wexner Center for the Arts at The Ohio State University with support from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation; and SITI Company with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Generous support for Classic Stage Company's 2005 season is provided by Morgan Stanley.

CAST

Ploughman WILL BOND
Woman ELLEN LAUREN
Death STEPHEN WEBBER

DEATH AND THE PLOUGHMAN IS APPROXIMATELY 90 MINUTES LONG
AND WILL BE PERFORMED WITH NO INTERMISSION.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I encountered *Death and the Ploughman* at the tiny Gate Theater in London two years ago and it stopped me in my tracks. The profundity and continued relevance of this text, written in 1401 in German in Bohemia at a paradigm-shifting moment in human history, is a remarkable human achievement. It was written at a time when the theretofore accepted medieval sensibilities were suddenly called into question—faith, the meaning of life, religious hierarchy, authority—leading to the start of the Renaissance.

Today we are undergoing another paradigm shift where religion, values and meaning must be examined from fresh new angles. This play by Johannes von Saaz can be a great help to us now. Irish playwright Michael West's adaptation of *Death and the Ploughman* brings an extraordinary grace, lightness and eloquence that feels very contemporary and relevant to our present world environment. Listen closely and be transformed.



The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without flash, is strictly prohibited.

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WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

WILL BOND (*Ploughman*) has created roles for SITI and toured the U.S. and internationally in *The Medium*, *Small Lives/Big Dreams*, *Culture of Desire*, *Bob*, *War of the Worlds*, *War of the Worlds—The Radio Play*, *Cabin Pressure*, *bobrauschenbergamerica* and *La Dispute*. He has toured with Tadashi Suzuki and SCOT in *Dionysus* and with Robert Wilson's *Persephone*. Recent roles include *Macbeth*, *The Lover* and *Creditors* at Actors Theatre of Louisville, where he is an associate artist. Will is a recently appointed Artist-In-Residence at Skidmore College.

ELLEN LAUREN (*Woman*). Associate artistic director for SITI. National and international venues: *systems/layers*; *Room*; *bobrauschenbergamerica*; *Death and the Ploughman*; *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; *War of the Worlds*; *Cabin Pressure*; *The Medium*; *Culture of Desire*; *Going, Going, Gone*; *Orestes*; *La Dispute*; *Hay Fever*; *Miss Julie*; and *Private Lives*. Additional credits include *The Adding Machine* and *Picnic* (ATL), *The Women* (Hartford Stage), *Seven Deadly Sins* (New York City Opera). Guest Artist, 14 years, The Suzuki Company, touring North and South America, Europe, Russia and Japan. Ongoing faculty member, eight years: The Juilliard School of Drama, New York City; Associate Director, Summer Training Program, Toga, Japan.

STEPHEN WEBBER (*Death*). SITI national and international touring credits: *systems/layers*; *War of the Worlds* (Orson Welles); *La Dispute*; *A Midsummer Night's Dream*;

Death and the Ploughman; *Cabin Pressure*; *Going, Going, Gone*; *Culture of Desire*; *The Medium*; *Private Lives*; *War of the Worlds—The Radio Play*; *Hayfever*; *Nicholas and Alexandra* (Los Angeles Opera). Off-Broadway: *Culture of Desire* (NYTW), *Trojan Women/A Love Story* (En Garde Arts). Regional theatre: American Repertory Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Magic Theatre, San Jose Repertory Theater, Portland Stage Company, City Theater—Pittsburgh and Stage West.

MICHAEL WEST (*Translator*). With The Corn Exchange: *Dublin by Lamplight*, which premieres this November; *Foley*; the stage adaptation of *Lolita*; *A Play on Two Chairs*; a translation of *The Seagull*; and *Car Show*. In collaboration with Team, he has written two plays for children: *Forest Man* and *Jack Fell Down*. Other original plays include *Monkey*; *Snow*; *The Evidence of Things*; *The Gunpowder Plot*; and two pieces for radio: *The Death of Naturalism* and *Chaste Diana*. Other translations and adaptations include *The Marriage of Figaro* (Abbey Theatre); *Stabat Mater Furiosa* by Jean-Pierre Simeon; Molière's *Dom Juan*; and *The Tender Trap* (an adaptation of *La Double Inconstance* by Marivaux). He is published by Methuen.

ANNE BOGART (*Director*) is the Artistic Director of SITI Company, which she founded with Japanese director Tadashi Suzuki in

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1992. She is a recipient of two Obie Awards, a Bessie Award and Guggenheim and Rockefeller fellowships and is an Associate Professor at Columbia University, where she runs the Graduate Directing Program. Works with SITI include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; *La Dispute*; *Score*; *bobraschenbergamerica*; *Room*; *War of the Worlds*; *Cabin Pressure*; *The Radio Play*; *Alice's Adventures*; *Culture of Desire*; *Bob*; *Going, Going, Gone*; *Small Lives/Big Dreams*; *The Medium*; Noel Coward's *Hayfever* and *Private Lives*; August Strindberg's *Miss Julie*; and Charles Mee's *Orestes*. She is the author of a book of essays entitled *A Director Prepares: Seven Essays on Art and Theater*.

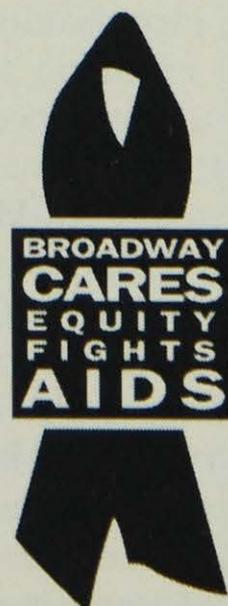
JAMES SCHUETTE (*Set Design and Costume Design*). As a member of SITI Company he has designed 14 productions including *Bob*, *Culture of Desire*, *War of the Worlds*, *Room* and *bobraschenbergamerica*. Recent projects include Tony Kushner's *Homebody/Kabul* (Steppenwolf, Mark Taper Forum and BAM), Frank Galati's *Oedipus Complex* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival), *Of Thee I Sing* (directed by Tina Landau at Paper Mill Playhouse) and *Nixon in China* (directed by James Robinson at Opera Theatre of St. Louis). Upcoming projects include *Lost Land* at Steppenwolf, *Intimations for Saxophone* at Arena Stage and *Marriage of Figaro* and *Rigoletto* at Opera Colorado. He is a graduate of the Yale School of Drama.

BRIAN H. SCOTT (*Lighting Design*) is a SITI Company member and has designed lighting for *systems/layers*, *bobraschenbergamerica* (Henry Hewes Design Award 2004) and *War of the Worlds-The Radio Play*. Most recently he designed *Marina: A Captive Spirit* with American Opera Project, *Twisted Olivia* with members of the Ridiculous Theatre Company, *Showpeople* with Anne Bogart at Exit ART, *Macbeth* (scenic and lighting design), *The Laramie Project* and *Death of a Salesman* in Baton Rouge and *Cherrywood*, *How Late It Was How Late* (Production Design), *Requiem for Tesla*, *El Parasio*, *Big Love* and *Lipstick Traces* with Austin Theatre Company, the Rude Mechs. He is currently working with Everett Quinton on *The Importance of Being Earnest* at the Arena Stage in D.C.

DARRON L WEST (*Soundscape*). SITI Company member since 1993. In 1999 his soundscape for SITI's *Bob* garnered an Obie Award and Drama Desk nomination. He is a design associate and "Usual Suspect" at New York Theatre Workshop, a 2000 *Entertainment Design* EDDY award winner and 2004 American Theater Wing Henry Hewes Award winner. Directing credits include *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* (Children's Theater Company Minneapolis), *Kid Simple* (2004 Humana Festival of New Plays at ATL), *Big Love* (Rude Mechanicals Austin, Texas), *Eurydice* (Children's Theatre Company) and SITI Company's *War of the Worlds-The Radio Play* (national tour).

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WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

ELIZABETH MOREAU (*Production Stage Manager*). With SITI Company: *Death and the Ploughman*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *systems/layers*, *La Dispute*, *Score*, *Hayfever*, *Marina: A Captive Spirit*, *bobrauschenbergamerica*, *Room*, *Bob*, *War of the Worlds*, *War of the Worlds—The Radio Play* and *Cabin Pressure*. Broadway: *Dirty Blonde*, *Bells are Ringing*. Other productions with The Play Company, The Public, NYTW, MTC, The Vineyard, Lightbox and The Stonington Opera House.

B.D. WHITE (*Production Manager*). This is B.D.'s second season with CSC. A veteran of the Off-Broadway scene, he has worked with MCC Theater, The Women's Project and Productions, New York City Dance Alliance, The Play Company, INTAR and The Culture Project. He also enjoys working on various special events.

CLASSIC STAGE COMPANY (CSC) is an award-winning Off-Broadway theatre committed to re-imagining the classical repertory for a contemporary American audience. CSC presents plays from the past that speak directly to the issues of today. As we return to the works of the past, we endeavor to keep a clear eye on the future, particularly in terms of the next generation of artists and audiences. Founded in 1967, Classic Stage Company has received wide recognition for the superb quality of our productions. CSC has made significant contributions to theatre as an art form through more than 160 productions of classic plays, translations and adaptations and a long-standing commitment to the identification and nurturing of leading and emerging talent. Recent CSC productions: Big Dance Theater's *Antigone* by Mac Wellman, directed by Paul Lazar; *The Mysteries* by Mikhail Bulgakov, Dario Fo, Tony Harrison and Borislav Pekić, directed by Brian Kulick; *Savannah Bay* by Marguerite Duras, directed by Les Waters; Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*, directed by Barry Edelstein; New York premiere of *Ghosts* translated by Lanford Wilson; New York premiere of SITI Company's *Room*; world premiere of Steve Martin's adaptation

of *The Underpants*, now published by Hyperion Books; world premiere of *Monster* by Neal Bell, directed by Michael Greif; New York premiere of Philip Glass' *In the Penal Colony*, directed by JoAnne Akalaitis; Ferdinand Bruckner's *Race*, available from Dramatists Play Service; and Bill Irwin's adaptation of Beckett's *Texts for Nothing*. CSC productions have been cited repeatedly by all the major Off-Broadway theatre awards: Obie, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, Drama League and the 1999 Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Body of Work.

BRIAN KULICK (*Artistic Director*). Directing credits include *The Mysteries* and *Amphitryon* at CSC; *Twelfth Night*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Timon of Athens*, *Pericles*, *A Dybbuk* and *Kit Marlowe* for NYSF/The Public Theater, where he was an Artistic Associate from 1996–2001. He has directed world premieres of works by Tony Kushner, Charles L. Mee Jr., Nilo Cruz and Han Ong. His work has been seen at Playwrights Horizons, NYTW, the Mark Taper Forum, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, ACT, the McCarter Theatre, Trinity Repertory Company and the Magic Theatre, among others. Brian is the former Creative Director of the Shakespeare Society of New York, Associate Artistic Director of Trinity Repertory Company, an Artist-in-Residence at the Mark Taper Forum and is currently on the faculty of the Columbia University Theater Program.

JESSICA R. JENEN (*Executive Director*) joined CSC this past July after a decade of success working in the commercial theatre. She most recently worked as the General Manager of the original Off-Broadway (Zipper Theatre) and Chicago (Lakeshore Theater) productions of *Betty Rules*. Prior to this she was the Associate General Manager for Jujamcyn Theaters. She also general-managed the Off-Broadway (John Houseman Theater), Los Angeles and Canadian touring productions of the international phallic phenomenon *Puppetry of the Penis*, among other projects. Previous management credits include the Broadway productions of *Smokey*

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

Joe's Café, *Swing!* and *Jane Eyre*. Jessica is proud to have worked for several years with the late Alexander H. Cohen on the productions of *Sacrilege*, *Chinese Coffee & Salome* with Al Pacino, the short-lived *Comedy Tonight*, various benefits and on the development of several television specials. She also served as talent director on the PBS/BBC special "Rodgers & Hart" and produced *Carmen* by The Violent Femmes' Gordon Gano. She received a B.A. from Brandeis University and an M.F.A. in Theatre Management from Columbia University's School of the Arts.

LISA BARNES (*General Manager*). This is Lisa's second season with CSC. She was the General Manager for the José Limón Dance Foundation, Managing Director for Nina Winthrop and Dancers, Production Coordinator for BAM, and in the Development offices of Meet The Composer and the New York Philharmonic. Lisa is a graduate of Oberlin

College and attended the Arts Leadership Institute at Teachers College, Columbia University. She is also a freelance director and playwright, and is a member of Sisters On Stage and Women Playwrights International.

SITI COMPANY is an ensemble-based theater company led by Anne Bogart. Its mission is to create bold new productions; to perform and tour these productions nationally and internationally; to train together consistently; to train theater professionals and students in an approach to acting and collaboration that forges unique and highly disciplined artists for the theater; and to create opportunities for artistic dialogue and cultural exchange.

Founded in 1992 by Anne Bogart and Tadashi Suzuki, SITI Company began as an agreement to redefine and revitalize contemporary theater in the United States through an emphasis on international cultural exchange and collaboration. Originally envisioned as a

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WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

summer institute in Saratoga Springs, New York, SITI expanded to encompass a year-round company based in New York City with a summer season in Saratoga. The Company is known nationally and internationally as a top-level artistic collective that generates groundbreaking theater while training artists from around the world.

SITI recently premiered *systems/layers* (a collaboration with music group Rachel's), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at San Jose Repertory Theatre and *Death and the Ploughman* at the Wexner Center. Other SITI productions include *Orestes*; *The Medium*; *Small Lives/Big Dreams*; *Going, Going, Gone*; *Miss Julie*; *Culture of Desire*; *Bob*; *Private Lives*; *Alice's Adventures*; *Cabin Pressure*; *War of the Worlds*; *Room*; *bobrauschenbergamerica*; *Hayfever*, *La Dispute*, *Macbeth* and *Score*. Future productions include *Intimations for Saxophone*, *Insult to the Brain*, *Hotel Cassiopeia* and *Reunion*.

MEGAN WANLASS SZALLA (*SITI Managing Director*) has been a SITI Company member since 1995. Megan was the company stage manager for five years prior to becoming SITI's Managing Director. She began working with Anne Bogart during *The Adding Machine* at Actors Theatre of Louisville. She has an Arts Administration Certificate from New York University, attended the Executive Program for Non-Profit Leaders at Stanford University Business School and was a member of the Arts Leadership Institute Charter Class at Teachers College, Columbia University.

JAMES CALLERI (*Casting Director*). Theatre: Playwrights Horizons (eight seasons). Noted credits include *A Raisin in the Sun* (Broadway), *James Joyce's The Dead* (Broadway and national tour), *Small Tragedy* (Obie Award for Outstanding Ensemble), *Betty's Summer Vacation*, *Lobby Hero*, *Goodnight Children Everywhere* and *Franny's Way*. Also CSC Repertory and Huntington Theater. Other credits of note: *Mrs. Farnsworth*, *Albee/Beckett*, *Fully Committed*, *The Vagina Monologues*, *The Syringa Tree* and *The Guys*. TV: ABC's

"Hope & Faith," NBC's "Ed" and USA's "Monk." Film: Upcoming Merchant Ivory films *The White Countess*, *Searching for Sara* and *Heights*. Other films include *Lisa Picard is Famous*, *The Jimmy Show* and *Trouble Every Day*. Member, CSA.

ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION (AEA), founded in 1913, represents more than 45,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence. www.actorsequity.org

Information in "Who's Who in the Cast" is provided by the production. Where opinions are expressed, they are those of the players, not necessarily those of PLAYBILL Magazine.

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Assistant Technical Director Joseph Reddington
Production Stage Manager Elizabeth Moreau
Master Electrician Andrew Merriweather
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Nick Sandstrom
Electrics Crew Nick Bixby, Jonathan Bradley,
Omri Chaimovitz, Jamie DelPino,
Jason Gibson, Missy Guisinger, Juda Holman,
Aly May, Ashley Pinkard, Amelia Vlah
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